

Appropriations Testimony 3/6/2015

I am the Reverend Kathleen Peters and I live at 65 Parker Hill Rd in Killingworth Ct (860-663-1448 revkathyp@comcast.net) with my husband Stanley and our 31 year old intellectually disabled daughter Sarah. Special thanks to my Senator Ted Kennedy Junior and to Senator Beth Bye and the entire I/DD caucus for their interest and care for my daughter and her friends.

I am here today for Sarah and for all others who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to speak on behalf of more adequate, fair and appropriate use of funding for (DDS) the Department of Developmental Services. My message is simple:

STOP THE CUTS TO DDS!

RESTORE the RESCISSION CUTS!

FUND THE WAITING LIST!

FULLY FUND DDS SUPPORTS!

Work to close the prohibitively expensive Southbury Training School and regional centers so that more can be served.

My cousin Carol has lived at Southbury for over 50 years and I know my aunt and uncle who are in their 90's are afraid of change but my daughter and Carol would be better served if Southbury closed and the money that is already in the DDS system was used to more equitably serve our most needy citizens. We can no longer abide by an elitist system of haves and have-nots. We cannot pit families against each other fighting for their piece of inadequate funding. Both Carol and Sarah need your support! We know how to do this ...we know what needs to be done...we just need the will to do it.

With all due respect Governor Malloy when I hear you stating on NPR that the fact that CT citizens need to pay more for beer than MA residents is a "serious" issue, I must wonder: where are our priorities? Who is state government here to serve? The vulnerable or??

If I cannot appeal to your humanity then let me appeal to your sense of fiscal responsibility and common sense....My husband and I are in our 60's...hard to

believe I know...but we are not going to live forever...don't we need to compel DDS and this legislature to come up with a plan for the care of our daughters and sons now rather than always reacting in crisis mode. Can you image dealing with a system whose policies say that your child will be with you until you are dead or ...and can I even bare to say this...or if you do something to endanger their health and safety before you can maybe get funding. This is an intolerable situation. It used to be a family joke that our son would get to choose our nursing home...with me in one bed and my daughter in the other...now it doesn't seem quite as funny as it is not beyond the realm of possibility with our current dysfunctional system.

It is our moral duty to care for those who cannot care for themselves!

Sarah and Carol need you feel this moral obligation! They need you to be leaders! They need you to act! I will beg on their behalf if I need to, but know this...I am not going away! The stakes are too high for these our children...my child...all our children!! Thank you!